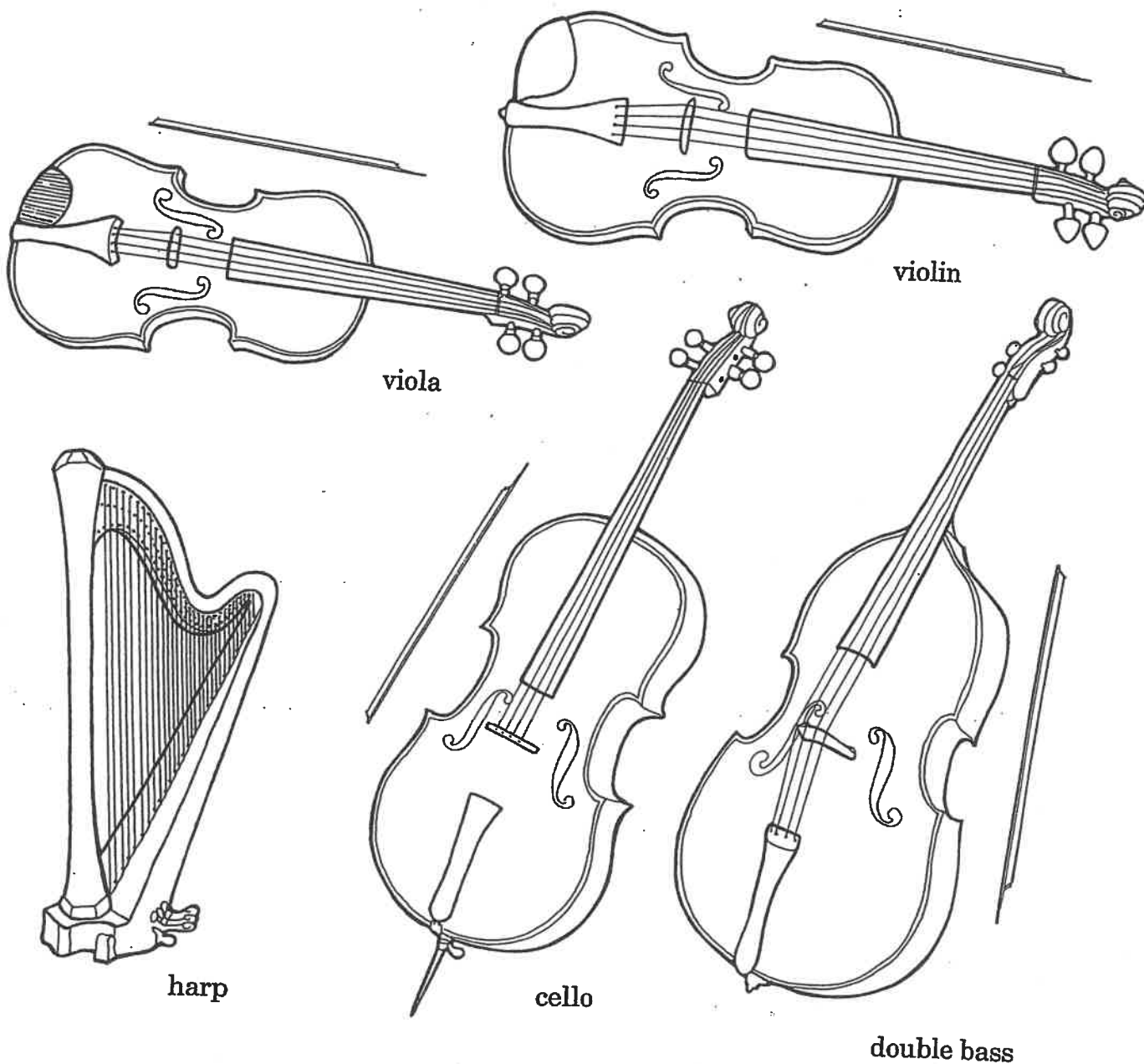


Orchestral Instruments

A modern symphony orchestra has about one hundred players. The instruments are in four groups or families: string, woodwind, brass, and percussion. The orchestra is led by a **conductor**. He or she leads with a short stick called a **baton**. The conductor reads the music for all the players from a book called a **score**.

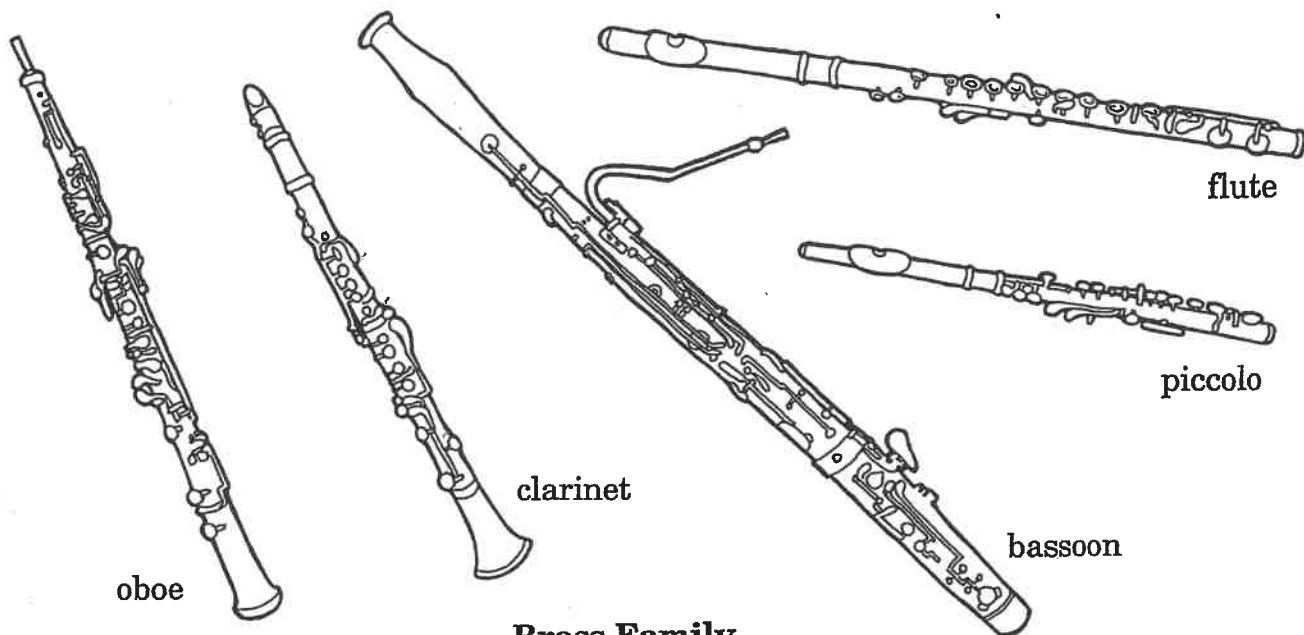
String Family

These instruments are made of wood and produce sound when they are plucked or bowed. The four viols are the same shape but come in four sizes. It is important to remember that the smaller instruments have higher voices. The harp has forty-seven strings. The player must pluck the strings to produce a sound. It is the largest family in the orchestra. Here are the string instruments:



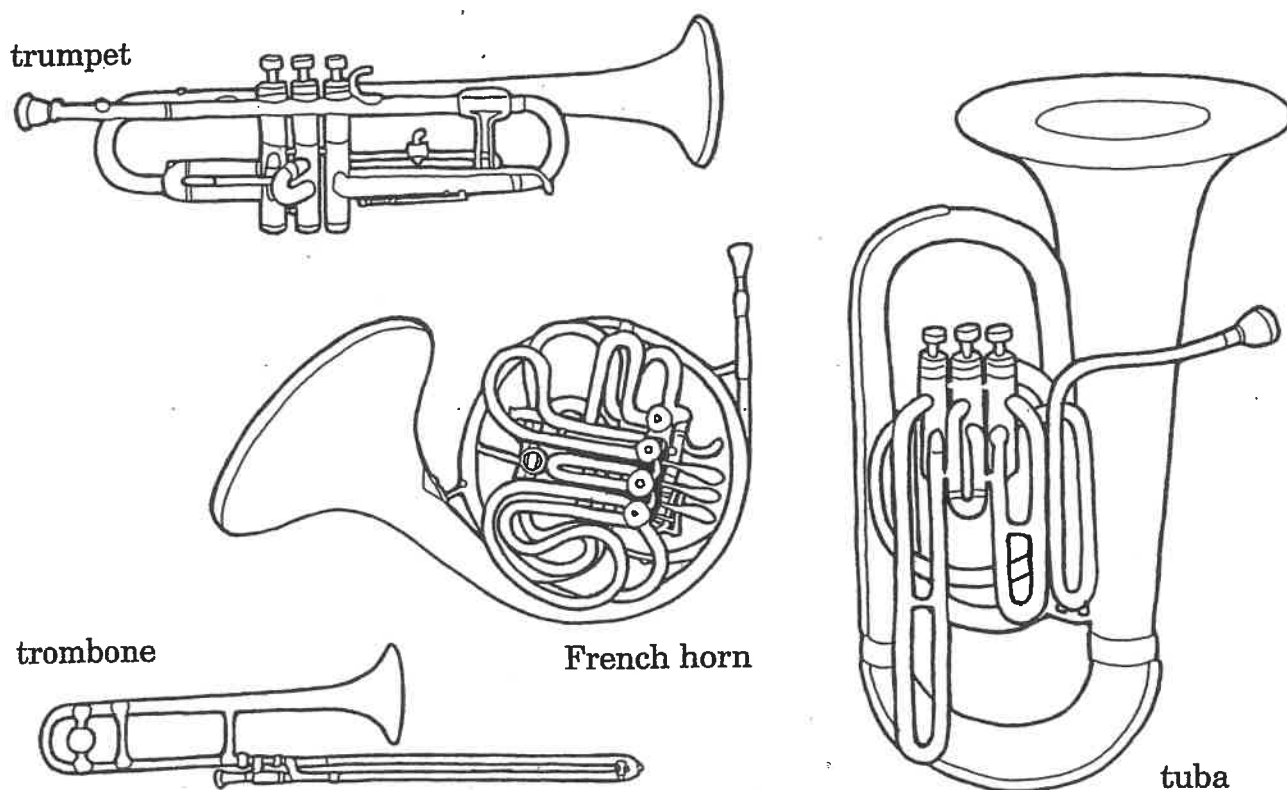
Woodwind Family

These are tube-shaped instruments that produce a sound when air is blown into them. In most cases (except for the flute), the air passes over a reed. Modern instruments are not always made of wood. These are the woodwind instruments:



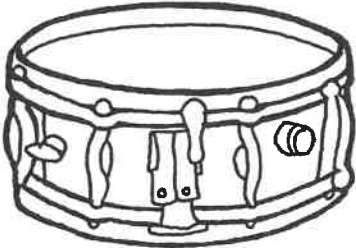
Brass Family

This family of instruments is made of metal. Air is blown into a tube and the pitch is changed by pressing keys or moving a slide. Each instrument has a bell and a removable mouthpiece. Here are the brass instruments:

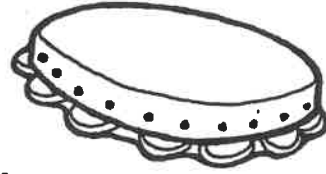


Percussion Family

These instruments are made of a variety of materials. All of them are played by shaking or striking. They are primarily rhythm instruments and usually do not play melodies. These are percussion instruments:



snare drum



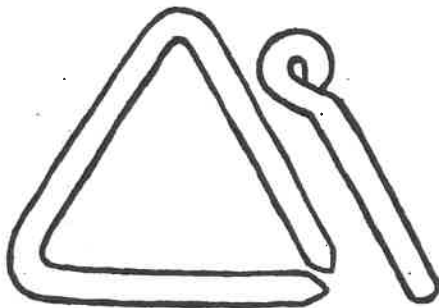
tambourine



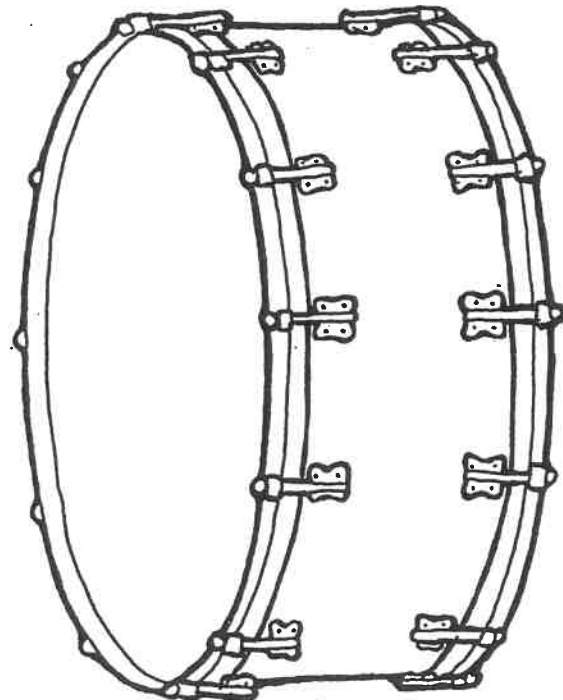
timpani



cymbals



triangle



bass drum